

Remarks

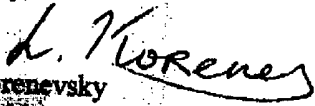
For the examiner's convenience I provide the following considerations about Claim 1 that are similar to those that were included in my previous letter, but without any reference to the omitted wording ('by screwing'). They exclude any suggestions of anticipation by the previous art for my Claim 1:

- Since according to Claim 1 the bearing portion and the outer portion 'are directly and firmly connected', my invention is not anticipated by Thackara (USPN 2766473) where the corresponding parts are not directly connected. According to Thackara's patent, the cap 16 and the cap 25 are independently mounted on the axle 13.
- Since according to Claim 1 the bearing portion and the outer portion 'are directly and firmly connected', my invention is not anticipated by Newman (USPN 3745624). According to the Newman's patent, they are 'a pair of independent frame units rotatable on a spindle of the paint roller'.
- According to Claim 1, the outer portion comprises 'a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve' and is 'removable to permit replacement of the roller sleeve'. Claim 1 cannot be anticipated by Dezen (USPN 4467509) where the supporting surface 66 belongs to the outer end member 40 that is *permanently* mounted 'on the shaft 28 similar to the member 36'.

The removable outer portion in Claim 1 combines three key structural elements that were *never present together* in the similar removable parts (outer end caps) in the previous art. It comprises 'an annular (inner) face against which an adjacent (inner) end surface of the roller sleeve core can be urged' (1), 'a supporting surface to support the paint roller sleeve' (2), and 'connection means' to be 'directly and firmly connected' to the bearing portion (3).

The annular face (1) is present in Thackara's, Newman's, and Dezen's designs too. However with respect to (2), my design differs from Dezen's design (though it is similar to Thackara's and Newman's designs). At the same time, with respect to (3) my design differs from Thackara's and Newman's designs (though it is similar to Dezen's design).

Sincerely,


Lev Korenevsky
05/16/2004